GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7373
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
DEDGER MACHINES IN KOLKATA PORT TRUST
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Dredger Machines functioning under the Kolkata Port Trust and the nmber ot of them lying out of order indicating the period since when;

(b) the reasons for not getting the said machines repaired;

(c) the total amount of rent paid for hiring Dredger Machines from Private Organisations during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure requisite depth for the movement of big ships in Kolkata and Haldia Ports?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) There are 5 dredgers functioning under Kolkata Port Trust and all of them are operational at present. In addition, there is a very small jet dredger for use inside the lock barrels and dry docks.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The amount spent by Kolkata Port Trust on hiring dredgers from private organizations during the last three years is Rs. 116.66 crores. Besides, Kolkata Port incurred following expenditure on additional maintenance dredging in the shipping channel at Haldia, which was carried out by M/s. HAM Dredging & Marine Contractors:

Year	Expenditure
1997-98	Rs. 36.26 crores
1998-99	Rs.225.63 crores
1999-2000	Rs.116.66 crores

(d) Increase in the navigable depths in the approach channels to Kolkata and Haldia has been the endeavor through all possible means such as dredging, river training, re-alignment of navigable channel and basin. The Government reimburses to Kolkata Port 100% of the cost on items directly related to river dredging and river maintenance as well as the cost incurred on items directly related to maintenance dredging of shipping channel leading to Haldia. In addition, Government has approved the proposal of Kolkata port for execution of River Regulatory Measures for improvement of draft in Hooghly Estuary at an estimated cost of Rs. 350.84 crores. River Regulatory Measures include action in all three dimensions of capital dredging, river training measure and re-alignment of existing channels.